

# Library



Gary Albarelli,  
Library Director

When the Florida Legislature created FIPR in 1978 it gave the Institute two distinct missions. One was to do applied research on phosphate-related issues and topics and the other was to distribute the facts and information that the research generated. In accordance with the second FIPR mandate—to spread information—a library was opened before the Institute's research programs even started developing.

This library, as a part of FIPR, is funded with tax money and thus is open to the public. It is a library, however, that specializes in phosphate-related information. It is the only such collection in the country and likely the only one in the world.

Over the years the FIPR library evolved, as did the business of information delivery. The library is part of a local, regional, national and even international computerized network of libraries and it has put FIPR on the Web.

In 1996, relatively early in the history of the Web, FIPR took advantage of a local library consortium opportunity and launched the initial version of its web page on the consortium's server. A year later FIPR had its own domain name and changed service providers so it could add a discussion forum and search capabilities to its page. Users can also now sign up for FIPR's mailing list online to receive annual reports, newsletters and announcements. To date, hundreds have been added through the online registration.

When the Institute launched its website, staff members were ready to call the effort successful if one user per day made his or her way to the site, since the idea of web pages was so new and the Institute's information was so specialized. From the beginning, however, the site surprised its creators. Its first year the site attracted 3000 users and its use has grown dramatically since. Currently the site attracts an average of over 150 user sessions per day, averaging 10 minutes per user session.

An effort is now underway to convert all FIPR research publications into electronic format to increase accessibility to phosphate information and the Institute's research. The documents have been scanned into Adobe pdf format, are currently being proofread and will later be available on FIPR's website for anyone to view or print.

**[www.fipr.state.fl.us](http://www.fipr.state.fl.us)**

Another FIPR library effort to disperse information includes indexing the library's vertical file of articles, clippings and papers on all topics related to the phosphate industry. This index cuts down the amount of time FIPR librarians and patrons spend searching for information. Future projects include indexing the Phosphate Industry News Summaries, which are monthly compilations of phosphate-related news stories and main articles in *Phosphorus and Potassium*, the major industry news journal.



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## Library Statistics

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- 1,000+ visitors per year
- 1,280 questions answered per year
  - 67% from Florida
  - 22% from other areas of the U.S.
  - 11% from foreign countries
- 600+ interlibrary loans per year

One-third of the books that FIPR lent in the last fiscal year were unique to the Institute Library, meaning the FIPR library likely is the only one in the world where the book can be obtained. Many patrons find this unique information through the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), which maintains an international computer library catalog. FIPR's collection of more than 5,000 books and documents is included in OCLC's database, and more than 15 percent of these items are unique to the Institute. This is a large percentage for any library.

Other new and unique information sources coming from the FIPR library are bibliographies of the worldwide literature on phosphate deposits and phosphate beneficiation. The library staff members spent two years compiling these volumes for the 2nd International Phosphate Beneficiation Conference that FIPR co-sponsored with the Engineering Foundation. The beneficiation work is a comprehensive bibliography and likely the most extensive ever done. The deposits work includes the major works and represents all the phosphate regions of the world and is intended to serve as a companion to the beneficiation volume. These bibliographies have been completed and printed as FIPR publications that are available at no cost to the public and should be great tools for engineers, consultants and researchers.

**Please visit the FIPR Library  
Monday - Friday • 8 am - 5 pm**